

ROOTED

DIGITAL PRESS KIT

# LOGLINE

Things take an unexpected turn when a young man's unusual DNA results are accompanied by a mysterious mask allowing him to see into the slave dungeon of his African ancestors.

# FILM SYNOPSIS

Rooted follows Kay, a 28-year-old struggling musician, and his studying anthropologist-girlfriend Sky. After Kay learns of his surprising DNA results, he receives a mysterious mask that allows him to see into the slave dungeons of his African ancestors. The power grants him the opportunity to witness his roots literally, but things begin to go awry when he realizes that his alleged ancestors can see him as well.

TRT: 15:23

Genre: Thriller/Horror

Rating: R (Nudity)



## ROOTED

IV SIGHT PICTURES PRESENTS "ROOTED"

STARRING NICAN ROBINSON & RILEY DANDY

PRODUCED BY ASHLEY CHRISMAN & JAMARI PERRY

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY MATT HALLA ORIGINAL MUSIC BY MAXWELL ADDO

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS WILL GRANT & HARRY LOCKE IV

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY SEAN ADDO

# DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Who are we? Do our answers lie within our chromosomes? I believe DNA is just the beginning. With the explosion of genealogy testing, we have begun to answer one of the most long-standing questions of humankind accurately. We can trace our roots, heritage, language, and everything that existed before us as individuals. Rather than our chromosomes being the final answer to our story, our linked DNA serves as the foundation of who we are. So what happens next?

With Rooted, I wanted to explore the psychological side of DNA testing. While some may be apprehensive about taking the test, others can be fearful of facing the part of them they don't know. What happens when you find out that everything you knew about yourself, culture, history, an ethnicity was all wrong? Do you disregard the facts or accept an identity entirely foreign for you? What about cultural barriers like language, location, and acceptance? As popular as genealogy testing is today, the process of self-discovery can be a frightening thought. The results can be world shifting, complicated and at the same time incredibly meaningful. Facing these fears is where our stories begin. Our roots are the origin of our identities.



# SEAN ADDO

writer/director/editor

Sean A. Addo is a Ghanaian- American filmmaker, born to two African immigrant parents. He grew up in a small city in the Buckeye state of Ohio, where his love for animation and storytelling carried him to the University of Cincinnati. Sean juggled his passion for motion graphics and VFX while playing football for his school.

During his time at UC, Sean designed for primetime networks such as Fox, ABC, NBC, under Fish Eggs TV. He then moved on to work for The Procter & Gamble Company, where his love for design evolved into cinema. Sean eventually studied film at USC, School of Cinematic Arts. His thesis entitled, *Deeper Than Black*, has been celebrated for its honest exploration of the "Third Culture Kid" syndrome.

After completing the MFA program, Sean landed an independent feature as a Director of Photography on the film entitled, *INQUISITOR*. He went on to work on several commercials at World War Seven Production Company until his first international film in Ghana entitled, *AMERIKAFO*. Sean is a former Panavision New Filmmakers and Facebook Seen Fellow. His professional experience combined with learning first hand from renowned filmmakers such as John Singleton, Clark Johnson and Anthony Mandler has more than prepared him enough to direct his debut feature, *THE HOMESICK*.

Website: [www.seanaddo.xyz](http://www.seanaddo.xyz)

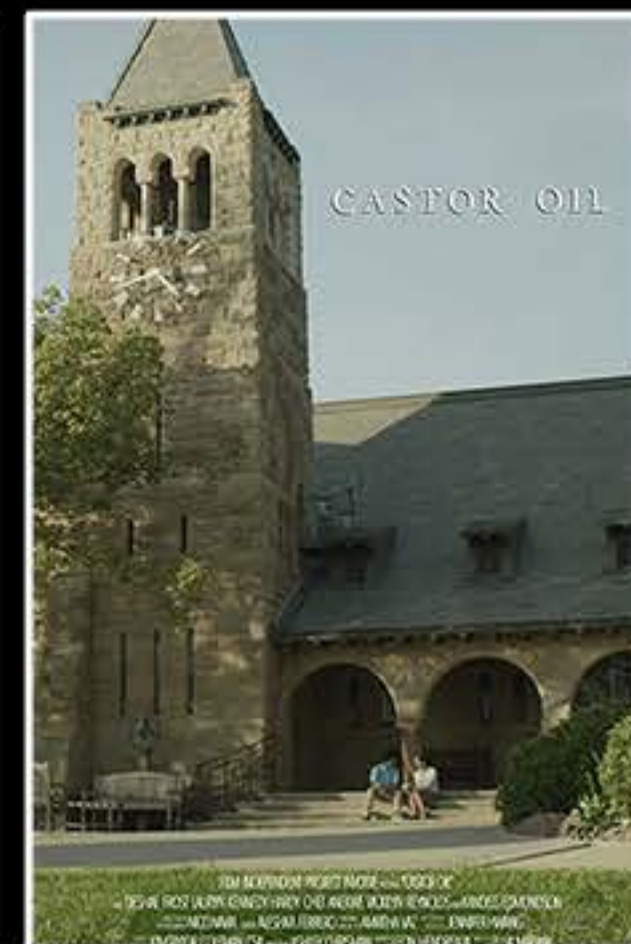


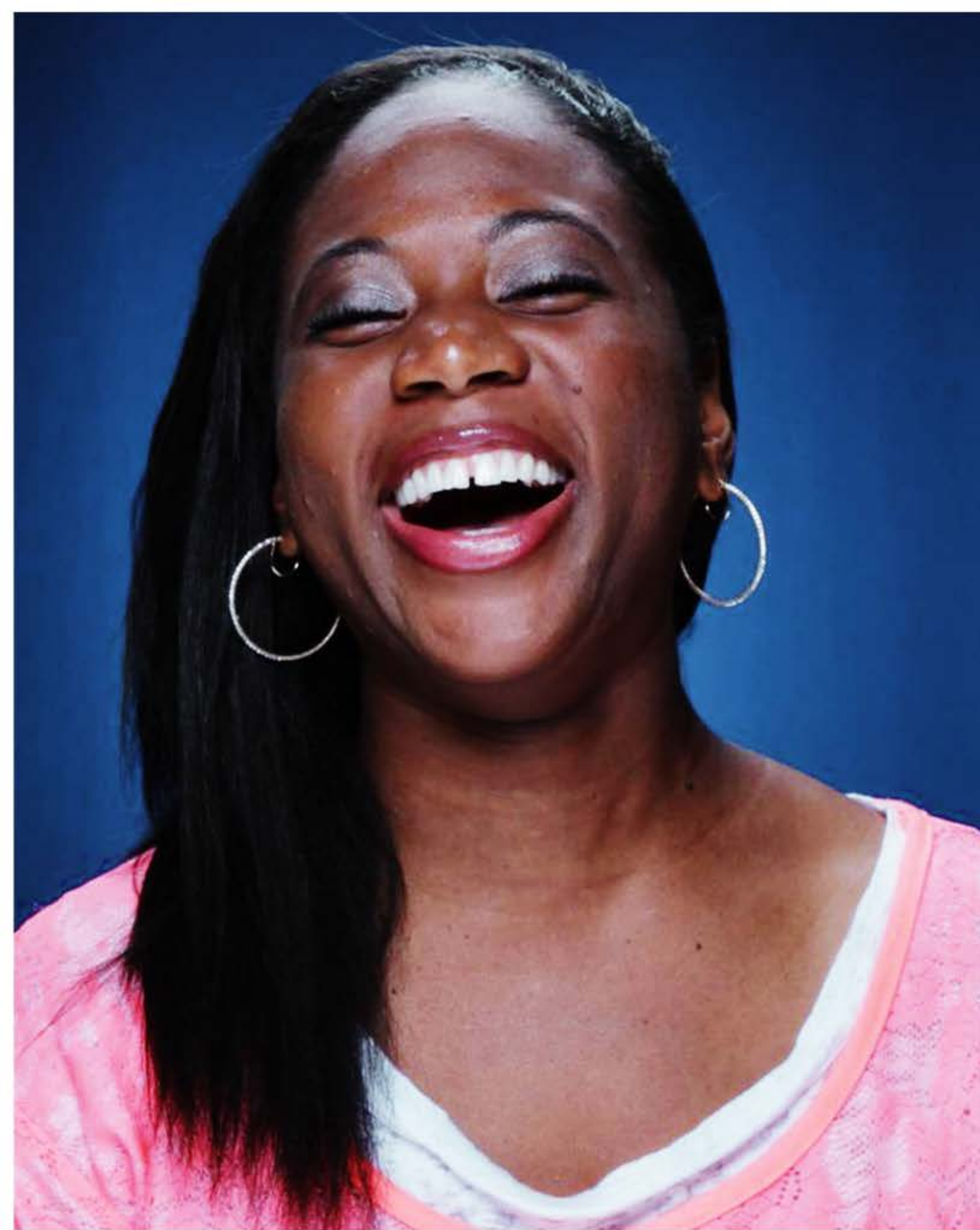


# ASHLEY CHRISMAN

producer

Ashley Chrisman was born in Oakland, California and raised on the south side of Chicago. She developed a strong passion for the arts at a young age and has worked to cultivate and mold this passion into her focused disciplines of theatre and film. Chrisman completed her undergraduate studies at Vanderbilt University and received her M.F.A in Film and Television Production from USC. While at USC, she produced several projects that have been screened at festivals around the world. Her goal is to shed a different light on the everyday representations of minorities and to find new and innovative ways to bridge the gap between community activism and filmmaking. Chrisman is a former Blackhouse Producing Fellow, Sundance Producing Fellow, Ghetto Film School and Facebook Seen Fellow. She currently resides in Los Angeles and is developing her first feature, *The Corruption of Vance Carter*. She



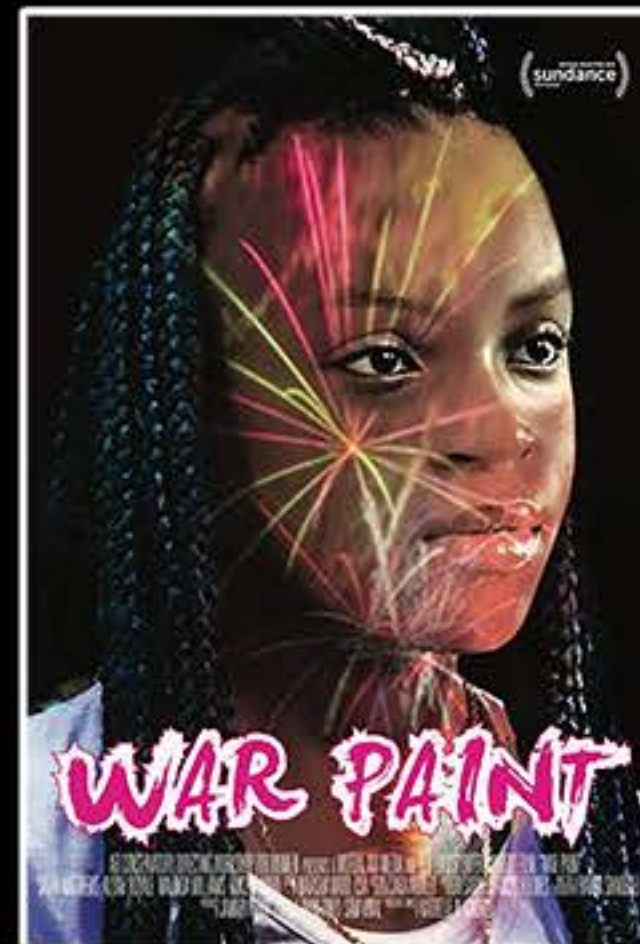


# JAMARI PERRY

producer

Jamari Perry is an accomplished filmmaker from the Bay Area, CA. With an MFA in Film and TV Production from USC's School of Cinematic Arts, Jamari works as a freelance producer and director. Her films focus on popular culture and community empowerment. She has produced and directed several works for television, live events, and documentary feature films. Her experiences range from serving as a public relations intern at CBS in undergrad to producing a Sundance premiered short film. Jamari is currently developing and pitching digital content, episodics, feature films, and a global media campaign for violence prevention all under the banner of her own production company, Red Locus Ent.

*"Great things can be slowed down but never stopped." - Mr. Perry*



# MATTHEW HALLA

director of photography

Matthew Halla is from California's Central Coast. Before getting his masters at USC's School of Cinematic Arts, he worked as a television photojournalist in San Francisco, covering everything from the Oscar Grant Oakland BART riots to presidential dinners at the Getty Mansion. He received five Emmy nominations and one win. Matthew is about the image, an observer, looking deeply at the communities and cultures around him for inspiration in crafting fiction and documentary storytelling characters and worlds. He enjoys travel, hanging out with family and friends, and riding bikes.

Website: <http://matthewhalla.com/>



# MAXWELL ADDO

## composer

Maxwell Addo, better known as “Shy,” is a music producer/recording artist/composer from Los Angeles, California by way of Cincinnati, Ohio. Guided by his cross-cultural upbringing, Shy’s distinctive sound is a mash up of West Coast, Midwest, Southern and West African influences. Shy possesses a unique sound, coupled with the versatility to capture industry executives’ attention. He’s worked alongside top names in hip hop and R&B, including Kendrick Lamar for the ground breaking Black Panther Soundtrack, Trey Songz for Birth of a Nation, and many other up and coming filmmakers and musicians. Dedicated to improving his craft, Shy recently relocated to New York where he’s expanding his knowledge and reach in the music industry.

SHY MAXWELL EP - AIESHA

(out on all music streaming platforms)

<https://unitedmasters.com/m/619db3b96b55ac71971b6768>





## RILEY DANDY I SKY

After graduating from the acting conservatory at LACC, Riley booked her first lead in "City of Gold," and Snapchat/NBCUniversal's series, "Kappa Crypto." She can be seen in "Christmas Bloody Christmas," for Shudder and "A Hollywood Christmas," for HBOMax. Her latest role is in, "That's Amor," set to release on Netflix in the summer 2022.

## STARRING

### NICAN ROBINSON I KAY

Nican will soon be seen in the feature films "The Day-long Brothers," from filmmaker Brandon McCormick and "The Secret Art of Human Flight," directed by HP Mendoza. Other notable feature credits include "No Man of God" with Elijah Wood, "Thunder Road," which won the top prize at the 2018 SXSW Jury Awards for Best Narrative Feature and Skinner Myers' independent film "The Sleeping Negro."





## SUPPORTING VICTOR KAMWENDO

Victor is a Malawian/American actor based in Los Angeles. Kamwendo graduated from Indiana University Performing Arts Graduate program where he starred in productions such as A Raisin In The Sun, West Side Story, and Kiss Me Kate. Since then Victor has built a career in film and television. He has been seen on S.W.A.T for CBS, A Mothers Sacrifice, Trees of Peace and Thrashers.

## AMAKA 1ZUCHI

Amaka also known as ZuZu is a Nigerian/American actor based in Los Angeles. Zuzu graduated from USC Masters Acting Conservatory where she performed in Don Quijote, Prince of Tyre, and Blood Match. She can also be seen in 99 Seats, I'm Positive, and Purgatory Break. Zuzu is currently developing a limited series based on the Nigerian Biafran war.



# CREDITS

|                           |                 |                              |                     |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Director.....             | Sean Addo       | Male Dungeon Spirit 2.....   | Folorunso Adu       |
| Producer.....             | Ashley Chrisman | Male Dungeon Spirit 3.....   | Obi Iloh            |
| Producer.....             | Jamari Perry    | Female Dungeon Spirit 1..... | Kimberlyn Williams  |
| 1st AD.....               | Lizzy Walker    | Female Dungeon Spirit 2..... | Alonya Parrott      |
| PA.....                   | Jonathan Curtis | Dungeon Spirit Voice.....    | John Wiafe          |
| PA.....                   | Kumiko Green    |                              |                     |
| DP.....                   | Matt Halla      | Sound Supervisor.....        | Matt Larson         |
| 1st AC.....               | Jorge Gomez     | Foley Artist.....            | Alvaro Aparicio     |
| Gaffer.....               | Rob Padilla     | Foley Editor.....            | Vanessa Chuquiure   |
| Key Grip.....             | Gabe Sandoval   | Fante Consultant.....        | Ike Idan-biney      |
| Film Loader/Tech.....     | Tyler Purcell   | Editor.....                  | Sean Addo           |
| Steadicam.....            | David Baldwin   | Composer.....                | Maxwell Addo        |
| Costume Design.....       | Safiyyah Fatin  | Colorist.....                | Luke Cahill         |
| Production Design.....    | Angela Nam      | Conformist.....              | Harry Locke         |
| MUA.....                  | April Garcia    | Film Scans.....              | Jaime Busby         |
| Hair.....                 | Dee Dee Addo    | E.P.....                     | Will Grant Vision   |
| Sound Recordist.....      | Frankie Galvez  | E.P.....                     | Harry locke         |
| Set Photographer.....     | Ketsia Vedrine  | Visual Effects.....          | Camilo Cano         |
|                           |                 | re-recording mixer.....      | Jan Bezouska        |
| Kay.....                  | Nican Robinson  | Camera Equipment.....        | Panavision          |
| Sky.....                  | Riley Dandy     | Film Stock.....              | Kodak               |
| The Scarred One.....      | Victor Kamwendo | Signatory Business Rep.....  | Laine Wilkinson     |
| The Escaped Woman.....    | Ukamaka Izuchi  | Covid Test.....              | Dr. Ryan Namdarkhan |
| Male Dungeon Spirit 1.... | Maxwell Addo    |                              |                     |

# STILLS



# STILLS



# PRODUCTION



# AWARDS

**Panavision New Filmmakers Grant Winner**

**Vanashing Angle Grant Finalist**

**Decentralized Films Finalist**

**Top 10 Redlist Short Scripts of the Year**

**1# Redlist Short Script of the Month**



